

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: Evening
Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 1495 - Water Resources Development Act of 2007.**
- **Republican Motion to Instruction Conferees on H.R. 1495-Water Resources Development Act of 2007.**
- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider two bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
 1. **H.R. 2929** - To limit the use of funds to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq or to exercise United States economic control of the oil resources of Iraq (Rep. Lee – Foreign Affairs / Armed Services)
 2. **S. 1868** - To temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes (*Sen. Kennedy – Education and Labor*)
- **Postponed Suspension Votes:** At some point today, the House will vote on the following bills, which were debated on Tuesday:
 1. **H.Res. 345** - Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of New York (*Rep. Fossella – Oversight and Government Reform*)
 2. **H.Con.Res. 187** - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dumping of industrial waste into the Great Lakes (*Rep. Emanuel – Transportation and Infrastructure*)

- **H. Res. 562-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3093 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Arcuri-Rules):** The open rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 3093 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Mollohan-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 3093 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008

KEY INVESTMENTS

JUSTICE

State and Local Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Grants: \$3.2 billion, \$1.7 billion above the President's request and \$334 million above 2007. From 2001 to 2006, these programs were cut by \$1.9 billion (\$4.4 billion to \$2.5 billion). Last year, the FBI reported that violent crime increased in 2005 and 2006 for the first time in years.

- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** \$725 million, \$693 million over the President's request and \$183 million above 2007, to support local law enforcement agencies, including \$100 million for the "COPS on the Beat" hiring program, not funded since 2005. CRS estimates that 2,800 new police officers can be put on America's streets with these funds. The President's budget would have cut these grants by 94%.
- **Office on Violence Against Women:** \$430 million, \$60 million above the President's request and \$48 million above 2007, to reduce violence

against women, and to strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- **Office of Justice Programs:** \$1.3 billion, \$78 million above 2007 and \$765 million above the President's request, for grants to state and local organizations for things like crime prevention, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, Drug Courts and Byrne Grants.
- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:** \$400 million, \$62 million above 2007 and \$120 million above the President's request, for state and local grants to address the problems surrounding juvenile offenders, including \$100 million for a competitive youth mentoring grants program.

FBI Salaries and Expenses: \$6.498 billion, \$509 million above 2007 and \$148 million above the President's request. According to the FBI, at the President's request the Bureau would need to institute a hiring freeze, postpone new programs, and cut operations across the board.

- Includes an additional \$71 million for counterterrorism and criminal investigation efforts, allowing the Bureau to hire an additional 272 agents.

Drug Enforcement Agency: \$2.082 billion, \$125 million above 2007 and \$40 million above the President's request for programs to fight illegal drug use.

- **Mobile Enforcement Teams:** \$20.5 million, the same as 2007 and eliminated in the President's request, to help local law enforcement entities attack the violent drug organizations in their neighborhoods.

Federal Prison System (Salaries and Expenses): \$5.2 billion, \$179 million above 2007 and \$20 million above the President's request, for education and substance abuse treatment programs proven to reduce the likelihood that inmates will commit crimes after their release.

DOJ's Office of Inspector General: \$75 million, \$4 million above 2007 and \$1.5 million above the President's request, for investigations and audits regarding the U.S. Attorneys firings, National Security Letters, and SENTINEL - the FBI's new case management system.

SCIENCE

Science and Science Education: \$28 billion, \$2 billion above 2007 and \$1 billion above the President's request for science and science education as part of the Innovation Agenda to keep America competitive in the global market.

Global Climate Change: \$1.85 billion, \$164 million above the President's request, for initiatives including: a National Academies' Climate Change Committee to study and investigate issues relating to Global Climate Change and issue a report making recommendations on strategies to address it; advanced sensors at NASA (Total Solar Irradiance Sensors) and NOAA (Earth Radiation Budget Sensor) to ensure the continuation of long-term climate data records essential to understanding global climate

change; an incentive program to assist businesses in the development of strategies to combat global warming; and funding for specific research and education projects.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

- **Science:** \$5.7 billion, \$325 million above 2007 and \$180 million above the President's request, for scientific research in space such as the Hubble Space Telescope, the Mars Rovers, and the Earth Science missions.
- **Aeronautics:** \$700 million, \$146 million above the President's request, for aeronautical research including fuel efficiency, air traffic patterns, and reducing emissions, to maintain U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace and to protect national security.
- **Exploration:** \$3.9 billion, \$467 million above 2007 and the same as the President's request, for new technology and capability for manned exploration in space.
- **Education:** \$220.3 million, \$80.3 million above 2007 and \$66.6 million above the President's request, for education dedicated to space, including the \$10 million for Global Climate Change education.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: \$4.0 billion, \$56.9 million above 2007 and \$141 million above the President's request, including the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program to protect the land surrounding our nation's coasts and estuaries.

National Science Foundation:

- **Research:** \$5.14 billion, \$474 million above 2007 and \$8 million above the President's request, putting NSF on track to double over the next 10 years in order to ensure the U.S. maintains its position as a global leader in scientific research and technology.
- **Education and Human Resources:** \$822 million, \$26 million above 2007 and \$72 million over the President's request, to support quality math and science education including \$36 million for the Robert Noyce Scholarship to encourage young scientists to become math and science teachers.

National Institute of Standards and Technology Research: \$831.2 million, \$154.3 million above 2007 and \$190.5 million above the President's request, to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

- **Advanced Technology Program (ATP):** \$93 million, \$14 million above 2007 and eliminated in the President's request, for investments in early-stage, innovative technologies.
- **Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP):** \$108.7 million, \$4 million above 2007 and \$62.4 million above the President's request to help small and mid-size manufacturers compete globally by providing them with technical advice and access to the latest technology.
- **Construction of Research Facilities:** \$128.8 million, \$70 million above 2007 and \$35 million above the President's request for

additional science research facilities including \$35 million for competitive grants for colleges, universities, and non-profit science research organizations to construct research science buildings.

Other Department of Commerce:

Census Bureau: \$1.2 billion, \$339 million above 2007 and \$2 million above the President's request, including \$19 million for full implementation of the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and \$13 million for outreach efforts.

Economic Development Assistance Programs: \$270 million, \$19.2 million above 2007 and \$100 million above the President's request, to promote innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

Related Agencies:

Legal Services Corporation: \$377 million, \$28 million above 2007 and \$66 million above the President's request, for civil legal assistance to people who are unable to afford it, allowing an additional 31,000 low-income client cases to be concluded. The program was funded at \$400 million in 1995 and has been cut repeatedly since. A 2005 study found that for every eligible person served, another was turned away due to lack of resources.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: \$333 million, \$4 million above 2007 and \$5 million over the President's request, to reduce the backlog of pending cases - projected to increase 70% from 2006 to 2008 under the President's request – and requires that all complaint calls be handled by EEOC employees, canceling the outsourcing of this service.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: Cuts \$2.5 million used to outsource the call center to ensure federal employees handle discrimination charges.

Herbert C. Hoover Building Renovation: \$3.3 million, \$0.9 million below the request.

Technology Administration at Commerce: \$1 million, \$1 million below 2007 and \$500,000 below the President's request, enough to shut down the program as it has functioned only as an unnecessary layer of management.

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

FBI National Security Letters: Prohibits authorizing national security letters in contravention of the law. The Inspector General identified FBI abuses and misuses of the FBI's authority to review customer records of suspected foreign agents.

Prohibiting the Privatization of Federal Prison Employees: Prohibits the privatization of work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

Right to Appeal Privatization: Allows Federal employees the same appeals rights as contractors after decisions are made on public-private competitions. **Moratorium on Reduction in Force at NASA:** Continues a moratorium prohibiting NASA from implementing planned staff reductions.

Quote of the Day

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." -Galileo Galilei

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